

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

LUSAKA, JANUARY 6 -- ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA LAST NIGHT
(JANUARY 5) ASSURED BANNED SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPER EDITOR,
DONALD WOODS AND HIS FAMILY THAT THEY WERE NOT ALONE IN THEIR
FIGHT AGAINST OPPRESSION AND APRTHEID.

THE ZAMBIAN LEADER MADE THIS ASSURANCE AT A STATE HOUSE MEETING
WITH MR. WOODS, HIS WENDY AND THEIR FIVE CHILDREN THREE
HOURS BEFORE THEY LEFT FOR LONDON WHEN THEY ARE EXPECTED TO
BEGIN A NEW LIFE IN EXILE.

IN REPLY TO DR. KAUNDA'S REMARKS, MR. WOODS SAID
PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S LEADERSHIP IS AN INSPIRATION TO MANY
WHITED IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID THAT MANY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS
ADMIRE THE ZAMBIA LEADER'S EFFORTS IN THE LIBERATION
OF THE SUB-CONTINENT.

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DR. KAUNDA PRESENTED MR. WOODS SEVERAL BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS
AMONG WHICH WERE HIS "LETTERS TO MY CHILDREN", "A
HUMANIST IN AFRICA" AND "HUMANISM IN ZAMBIA."
LATER THE WOODS AND THE PRESIDENT HELD PRIVATE TALKS.
THE STATE-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL TODAY HAILS MR. WOODS
AS "A MAN OF THE PEOPLE."

IN AN EDITORIAL PRAISING MR. WOOD'S DECISION TO FLEE SOUTH AFRICA, THE MAIL WRITES: UNLIKE MANY OTHER JOURNALISTS IN THE WORLD, MR. WOODS HAS PROVED HIMSELF TO BE A TRUE FREEDOM FIGHTER, WHOSE ONLY CRIMINAL ACT IN RACIST SOUTH AFRICA WAS TO SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE WITH THE OPPRESSED BLACKS."

THE PAPER, WHICH DESCRIBES THE SUDDEN DEPARTURE FROM SOUTH AFRICA BY MR. WOODS AS "A FATEFUL END TO A SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN A WHITE AND BLACKS," URGES THE FORMER EAST LONDON DAILY DISPATCH EDITOR TO MAKE WHAT IT CALLS "THE WAR ZONE" HIS HOME.

"WHILE IT IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE THAT THESE SAD MEMORIES AS STILL VIVID IN MR. WOODS' HEART, IT IS ALSO EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT MR. WOODS SHOULD MAKE THE "WAR ZONE" AS HIS PERMANENT HOME," THE MAIL SAYS.

ACCORDING TO THE MAIL, MR. WOODS SHOULD NOW OPEN SOME NEW DIMENSIONS IN THE "ALREADY HOTTING LIBERATION WAR." SAYS THE PAPER: "AS NOW PREPARE TO GO OVERSEAS, IT IS VERY DEMANDING OF A MAN OF MR. WOODS' CALIBRE SHOULD AT ALL TIME BE AT HOME - WAR ZONE - AND SPEARHEAD THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN FLUSHING OUT VORSTER AND HIS MAD CRONIES."

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IT GOES ON: "AS HE WILL BE AWAY FROM HOME PREACHING AGAINST THE DEMONS ACTIVITIES OF JOHN VORSTER, MR. WOODS SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT HIS SOUL IS IN SOUTH AFRICA WHERE DAY AND NIGHT, INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE JAILED, BEATEN, TORTURED OR EVEN MEETING THEIR DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE UNCIVILIZED VORSTER REGIME."

THE MAIL EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH THESE WORDS: "VICTORY IS ON YOUR SIDE AND WHEREVER YOU ARE, REMEMBER THAT AS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE AND A TRUE FREEDOM FIGHTER, YOU ARE NEEDED MOST AT HOME - AFRICA."

FORMER WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR, WILLY BRANDT, LEFT FOR HOME TODAY AFTER A TEN-DAY VISIT HERE AS A GUEST OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA.

MR. BRANDT, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF WEST GERMANY'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, CLIMAXED HIS VISIT YESTERDAY BY HOLDING A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE ALSO HELD HIS FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS WITH DR. KAUNDA AT THE STATE LODGE YESTERDAY.

MR. BRANDT WHO ALSO HEADS THE INDEPENDENCE COMMISSION ON

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (ZANU), THE
SOUTHWEST AFRICAN PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) AND THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA(ANC). ITEM USIS
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